Appl. No. 09/977,272
Amdt. dated February 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 11, 12, 16, 18, and 21-24 have been amended. Claims 3, 7, 8, 17, 19, and 20 have been canceled. New claims 25 and 26 have been added.

Claims 1-7, 9-10, 16-19, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al. Applicants traverse the rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate certain features of claims 3, 7, and 8, to place claim 1 in condition for allowance. Also, claim 1 has been amended to remove certain previously recited features. For example, the encoding step has been removed and incorporated into the categorizing step, and the transmitting step has been amended to remove the term "only."

Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 1, 7, and 9, to place claim 11 in condition for allowance. The term "only" in the transmitting step has not been added, however.

Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 19 and 20, to place it in condition for allowance. The term "only" in the transmitting step has been removed.

The above amendment has been made to expedite the prosecution of the present application. A continuation application may be filed to obtain a different claim scope.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating claims 8, 11-15, and 20-21 include allowable subject matters.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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